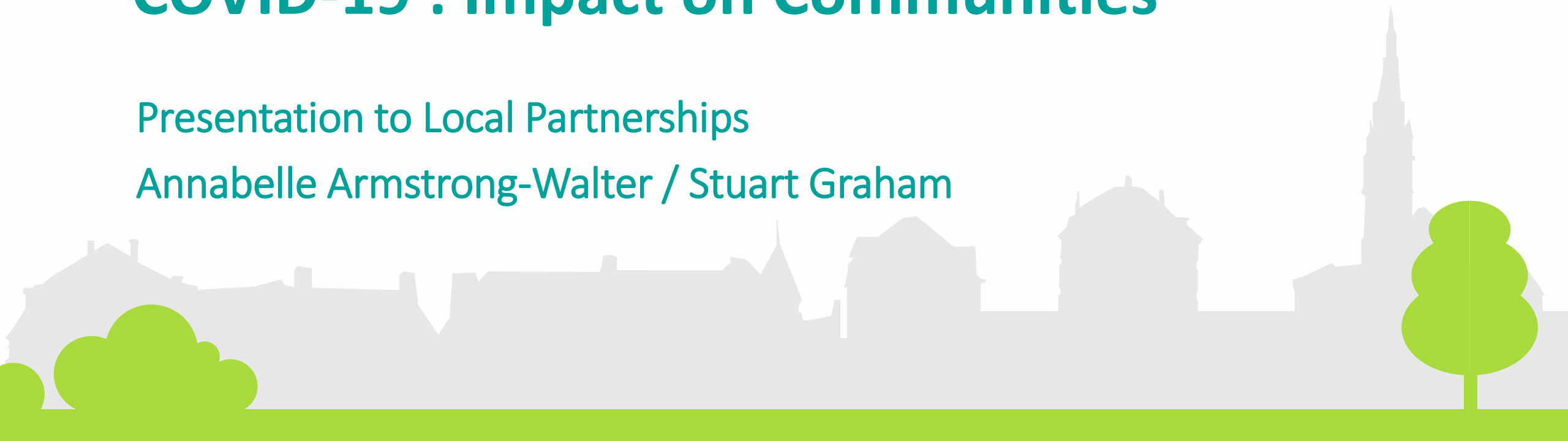


# COVID-19 : Impact on Communities

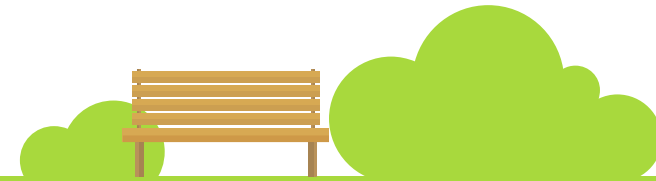
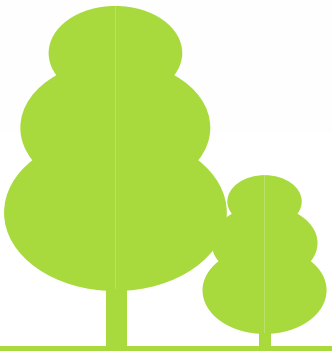
Presentation to Local Partnerships

Annabelle Armstrong-Walter / Stuart Graham



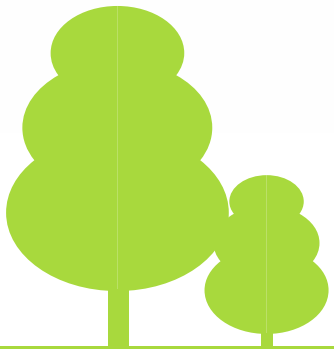
- COVID has disproportionately impacted people across Renfrewshire
- Evidence that pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities
- Short vs medium to long term impact
- Ongoing restrictions continue to be felt – tension between response and recovery
- Community Impact Assessment launched in August 2020
- Aim to gain deeper understanding of key issues / impact

**“listening and learning to inform response and to fundamentally address existing inequalities going forward”**



## In this presentation:

- Update Local Partnership members on Community Impact Assessment work done to date
- Share data from Public Services Panel relevant to this Local Partnership
- Discussion on Local Partnership members experience of how COVID has impacted their community



# Data + research – key points

## COVID cases

- 7,381 positive cases in Renfrewshire / 512 deaths to date

## Employment / Support for businesses

- 80% increase in universal credit claimants between March and October
- At its peak in August 2020, 28,300 people were registered with the UK-wide furlough scheme – 8,800 people at the end of October 2020.
- Grant support in excess of £28.5m being paid out for more than 2,500 businesses



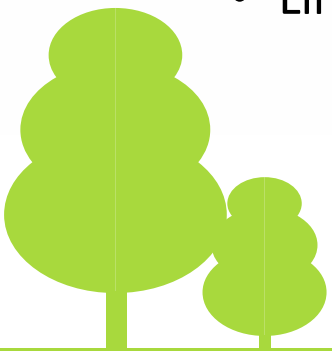
# Data + research – key points

- Increase in crisis grants March – October – up 1,030 from same period last year to 6225.
- 4,000 contacts to Advice Works over same period (70% from recognised priority groups for child poverty)
- Increasing concerns re fuel poverty – community organisations increasingly focusing on distribution of fuel vouchers
- Renfrewshire Foodbank has provided food support to 3,148 adults and 1,200 children to date (broadly in line with previous years due to community food)
- Community food – hundreds of food parcels every week e.g. 350 visits to STAR food pantry in 2019/20 - 6,700 supports to date in 2020



# Data + research – key points

- Neighbourhood Hubs – almost 700 referrals, 38 of which in the Erskine LP area
- 1,250 digital devices/connectivity being distributed in Renfrewshire through the Connecting Scotland Programme through the hubs and partners
- Health and wellbeing
  - Ongoing impact on delivery of health and care services e.g. service waiting times
  - National surveys indicate 25-28% of people would not contact a GP at this time about a non-COVID related medical concern
  - In Scotland-wide Ipsos MORI surveys carried out between May and July 2020 between 53-59% felt lonely some/most/almost all or all of the time.
  - Link to alcohol and drug use





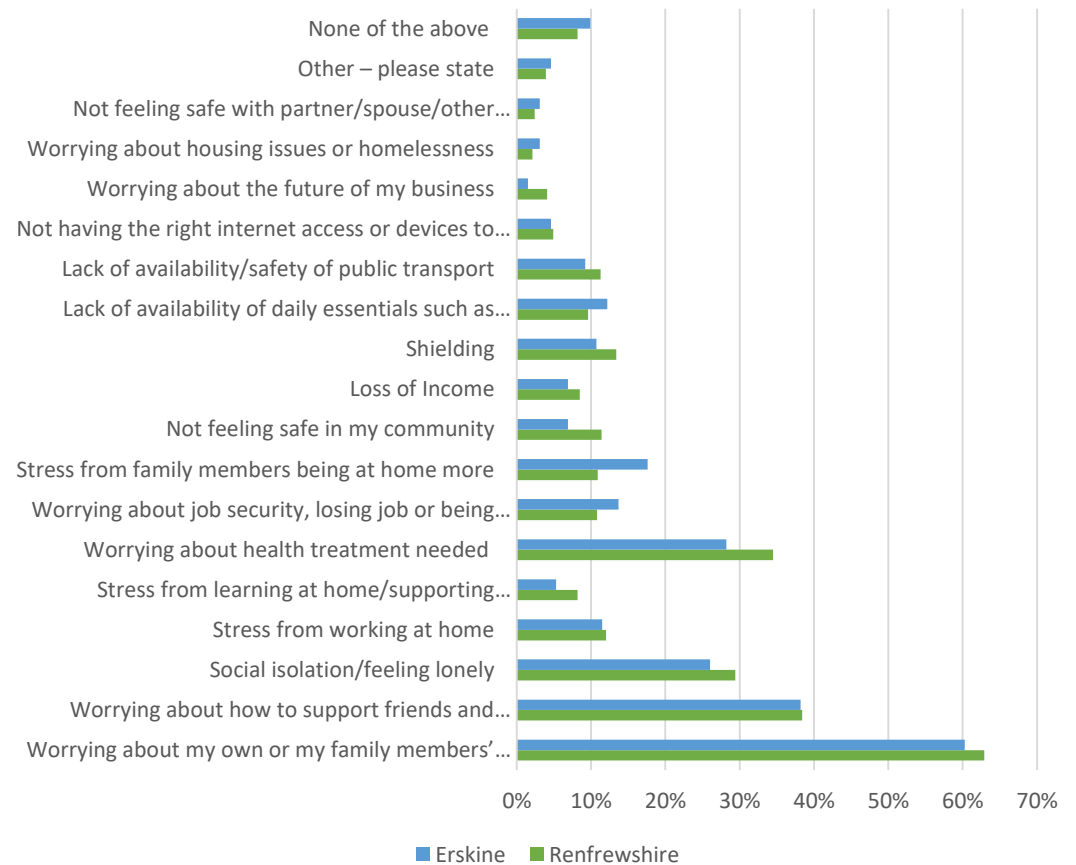
# Public Services Panel

- Issued recently to 1,500 local people by post/email
- Survey of behaviours / attitudes in light of COVID
- Focus on : - financial and income worries, family issues, mental health and wellbeing, access to support, access to information, digital inclusion etc

# What has affected you most during the coronavirus pandemic?

People reported being most affected by:

- worrying about their own or their families future (63%)
- worrying about how to support family and friends who need help (38%)
- worrying about health treatment needed (35%)
- social isolation/feeling lonely (29%)





# Which of the following things, are major worries for you ...

Major worries at the moment include:

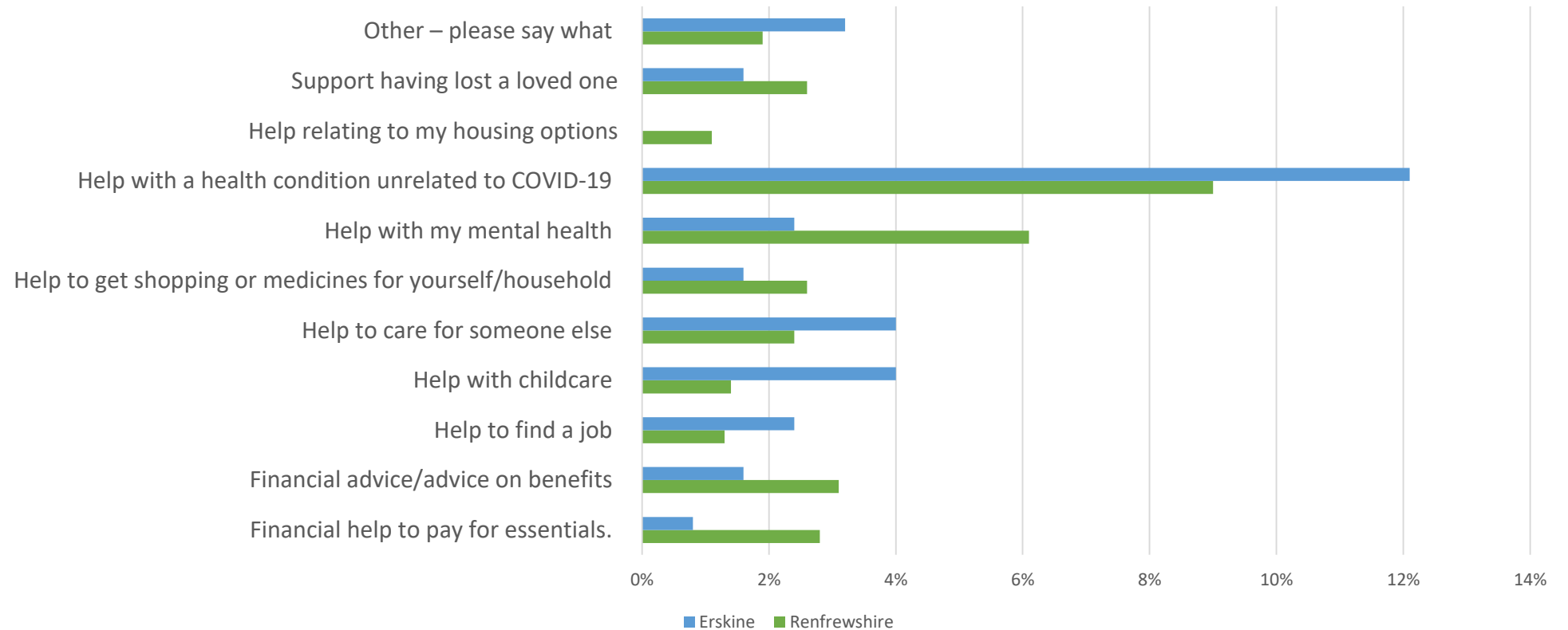
- friends or family becoming seriously ill with COVID (73%)
- becoming seriously ill themselves with COVID (49%)
- a family member or friends mental health (28%)
- their own mental health (22%)
- their financial situation/losing their job (11.2%)

# How is your household managing financially?

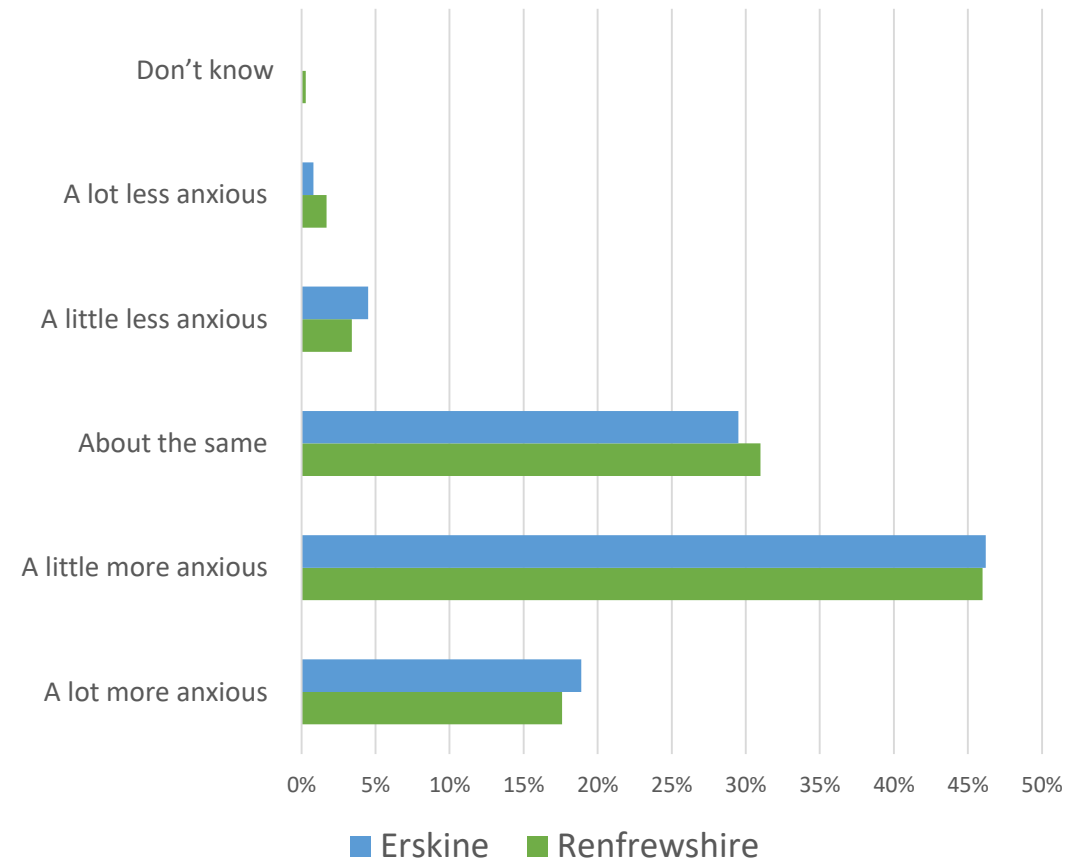
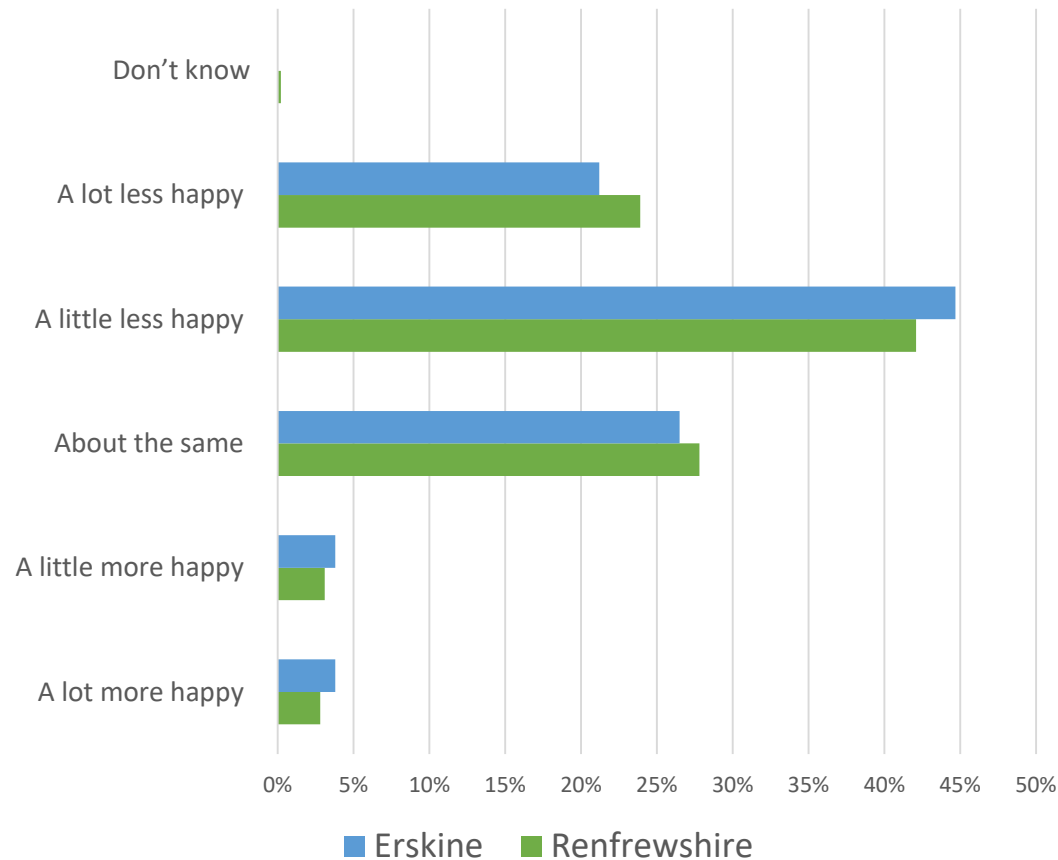
Q8a	<b>Again, thinking back to the start of March this year, before the coronavirus lockdown, which of the following best describes how you and your household were managing financially?</b>	
408 (47.6%)	Manage very well	
269 (31.4%)	Manage quite well	
150 (17.5%)	Get by alright	
9 (1.0%)	Don't manage very well	
18 (2.1%)	Have some financial difficulties	
4 (0.5%)	Experiencing serious financial difficulties	

Q8b	<b>And thinking about now, which of the following best describes how you and your household are managing financially?</b>	
353 (41.1%)	Manage very well	
256 (29.8%)	Manage quite well	
191 (22.3%)	Get by alright	
20 (2.3%)	Don't manage very well	
31 (3.6%)	Have some financial difficulties	
7 (0.8%)	Experiencing serious financial difficulties	

# Is there help that you feel you currently need but you are not receiving?

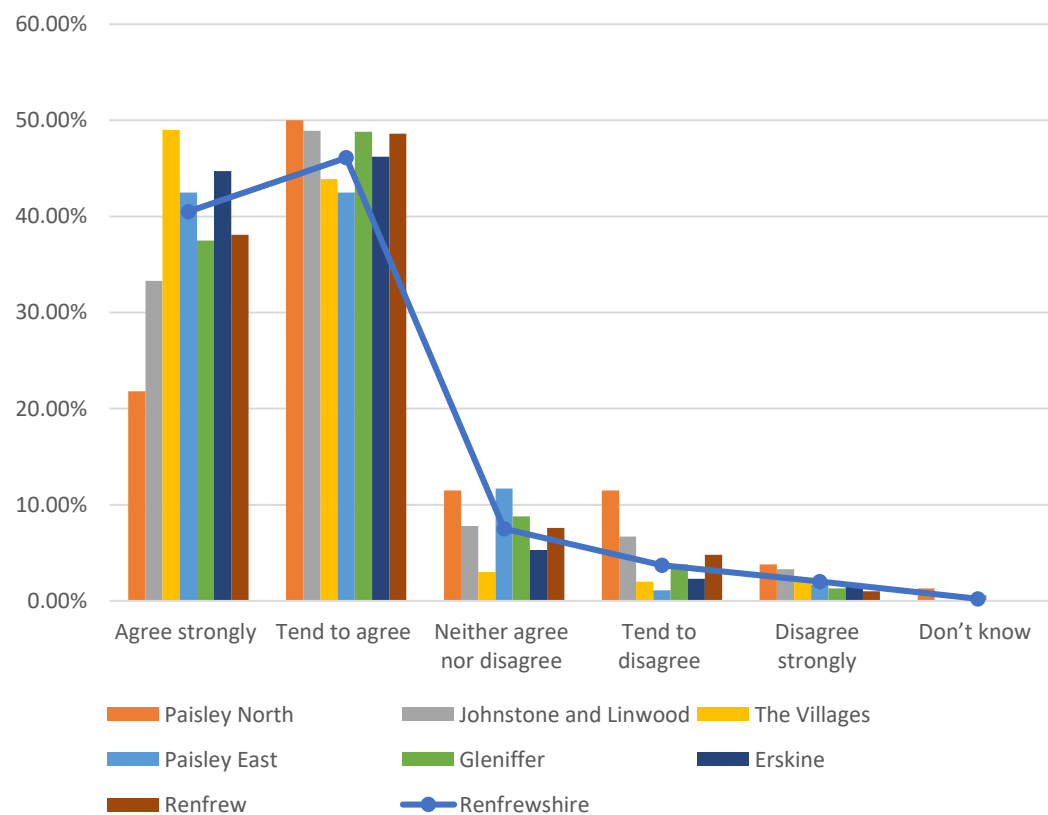


# Compared with how you felt on a typical day before the start of March, would you say you felt....

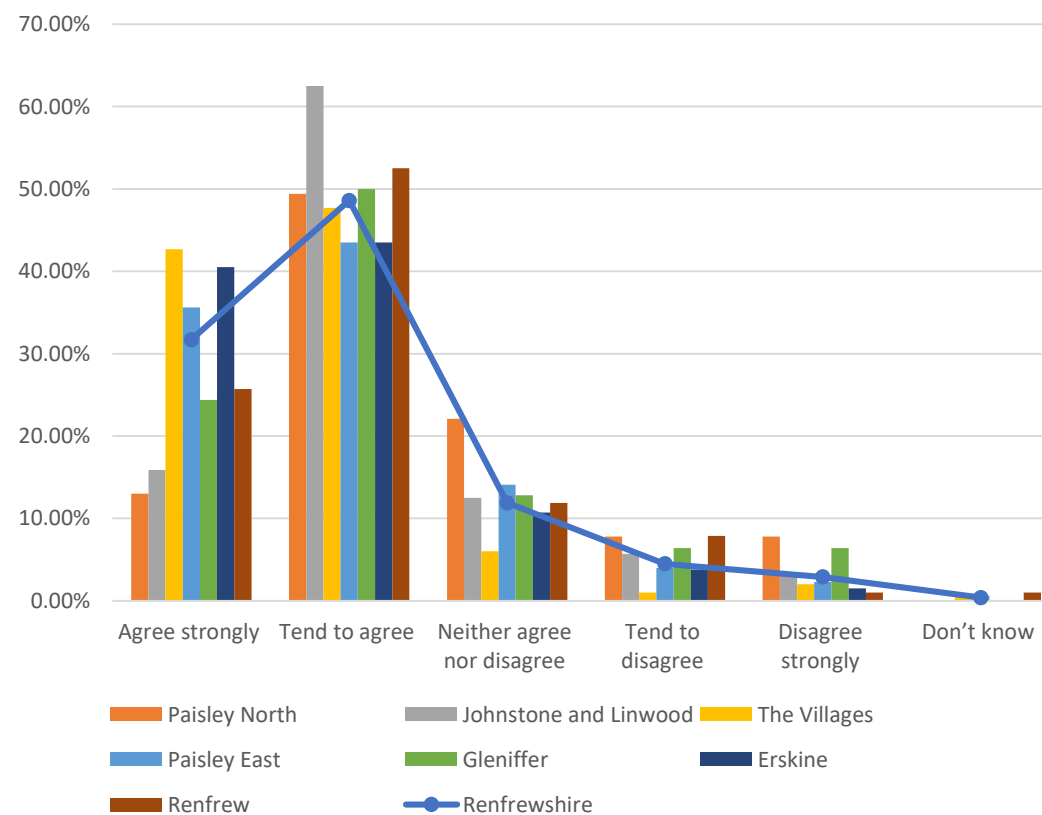


# Public Services Panel responses

I am satisfied with my neighbourhood as a place to live

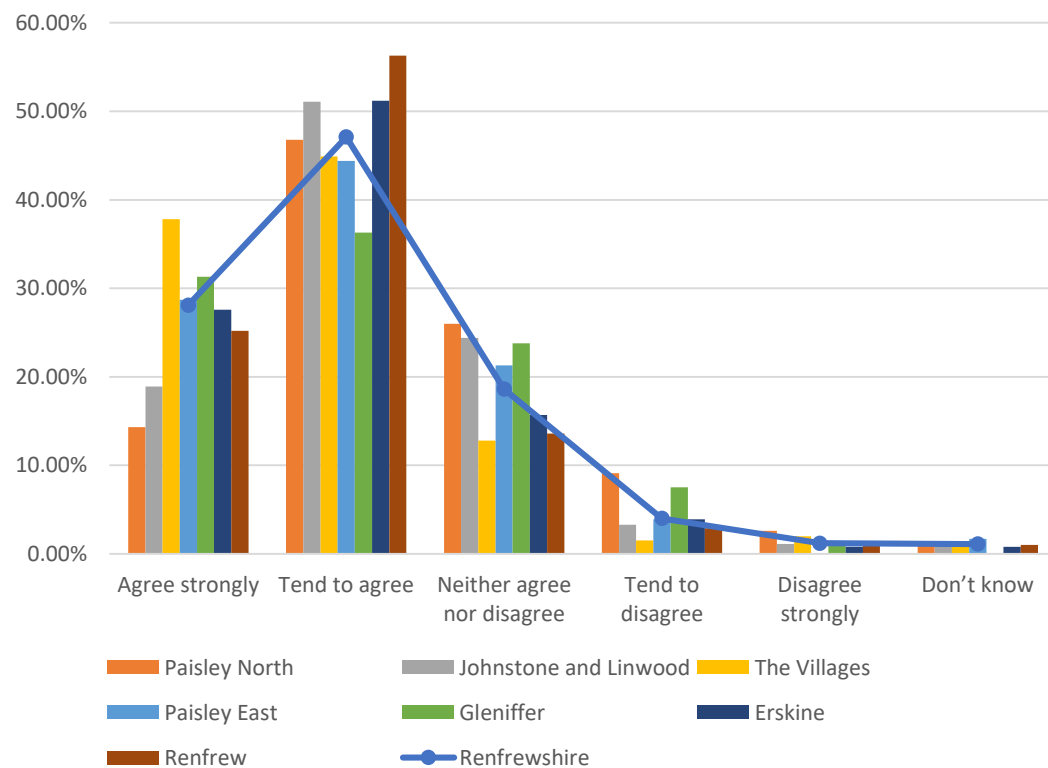


My local area is a safe place to live

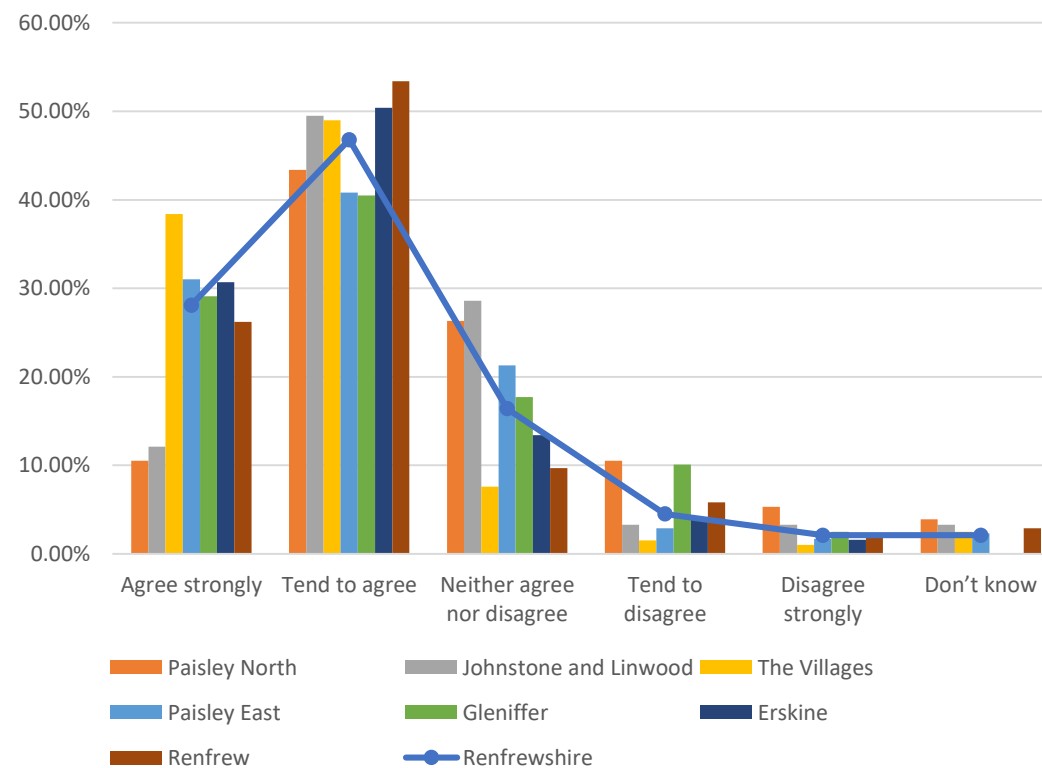


# Public Services Panel responses

This is a neighbourhood where people are kind to each other

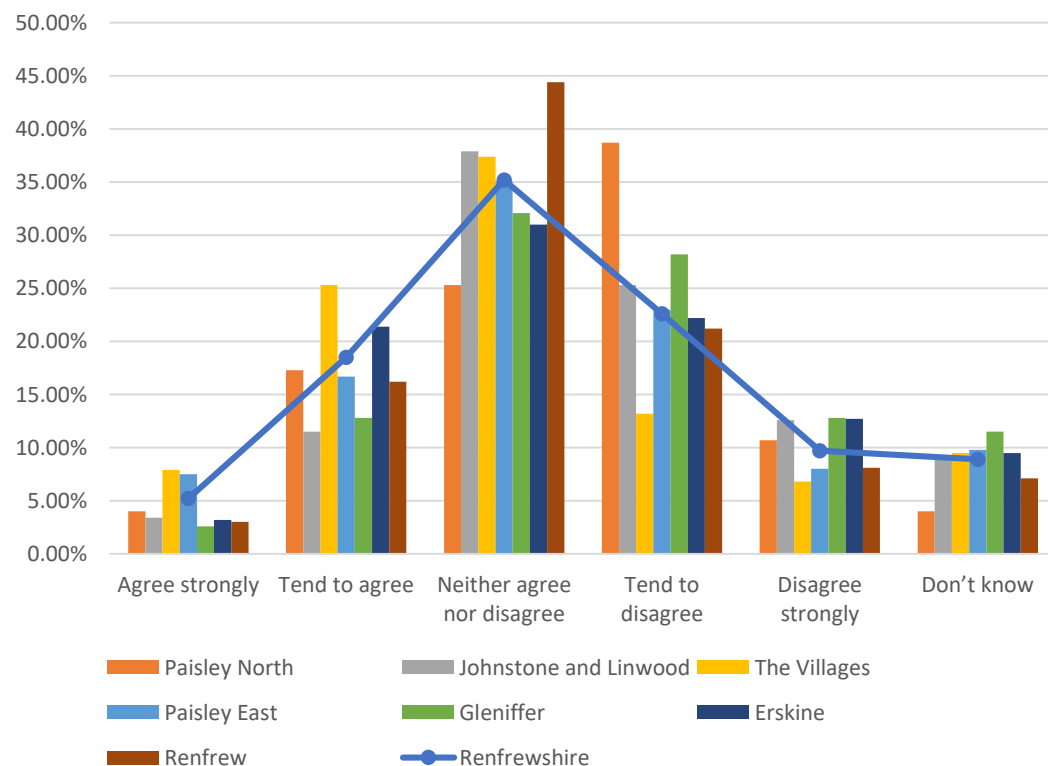


This is a neighbourhood where most people can be trusted

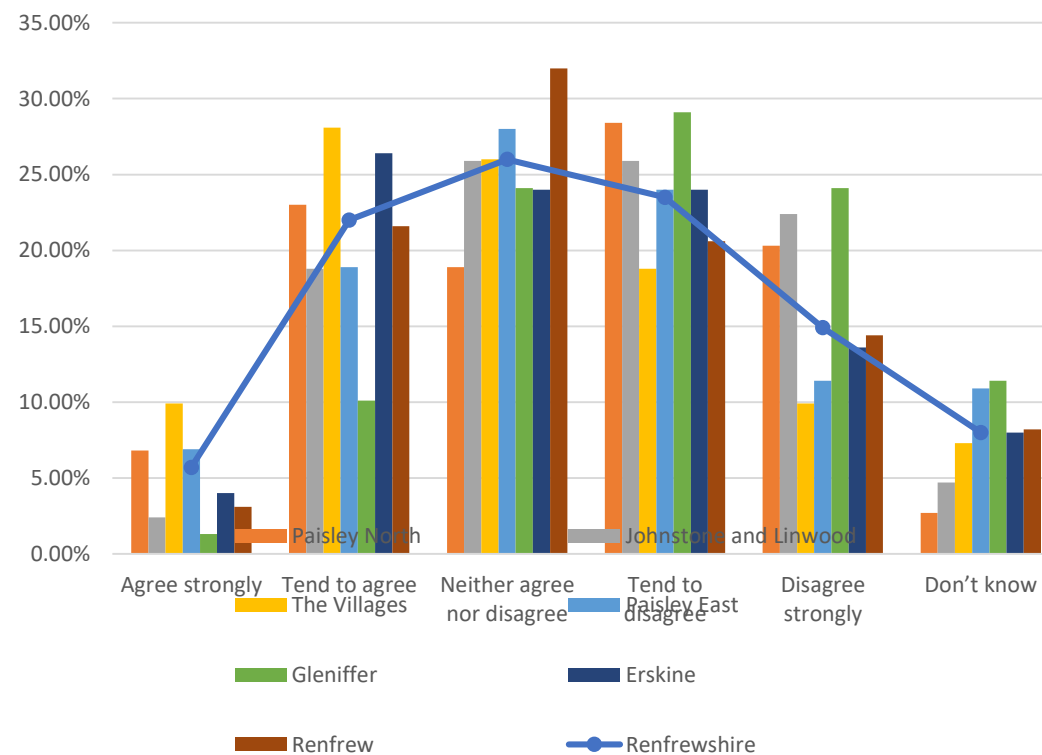


# Public Services Panel responses

There are welcoming places and opportunities to meet new people

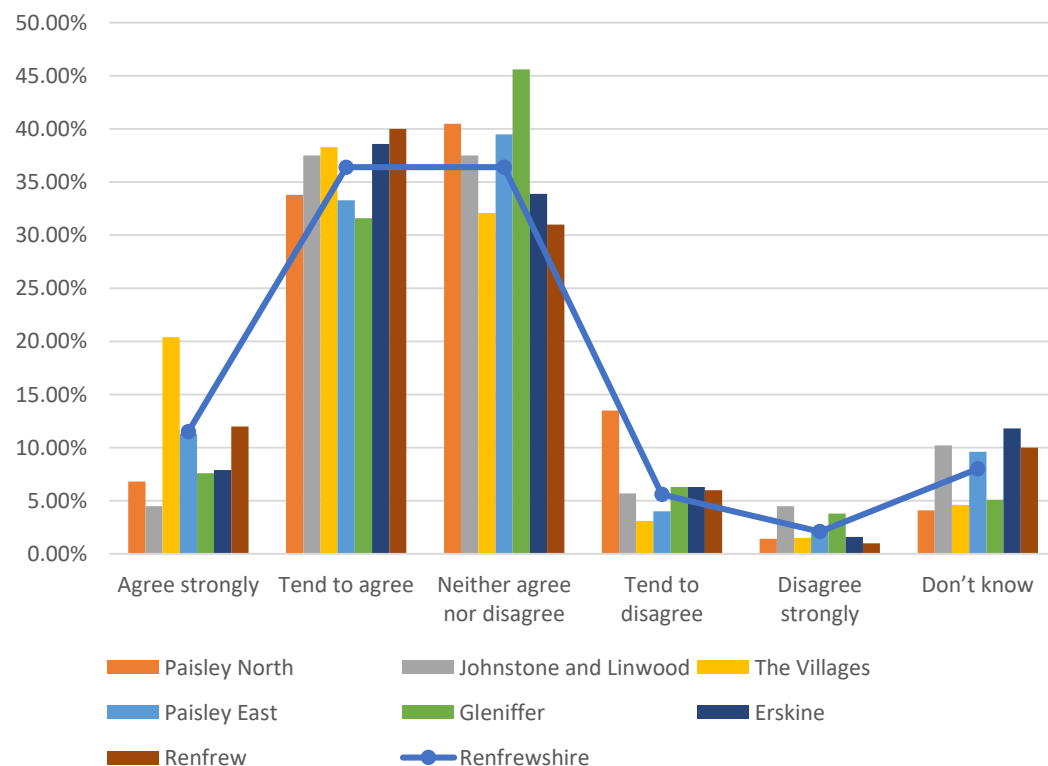


There are places where people can meet up and socialise

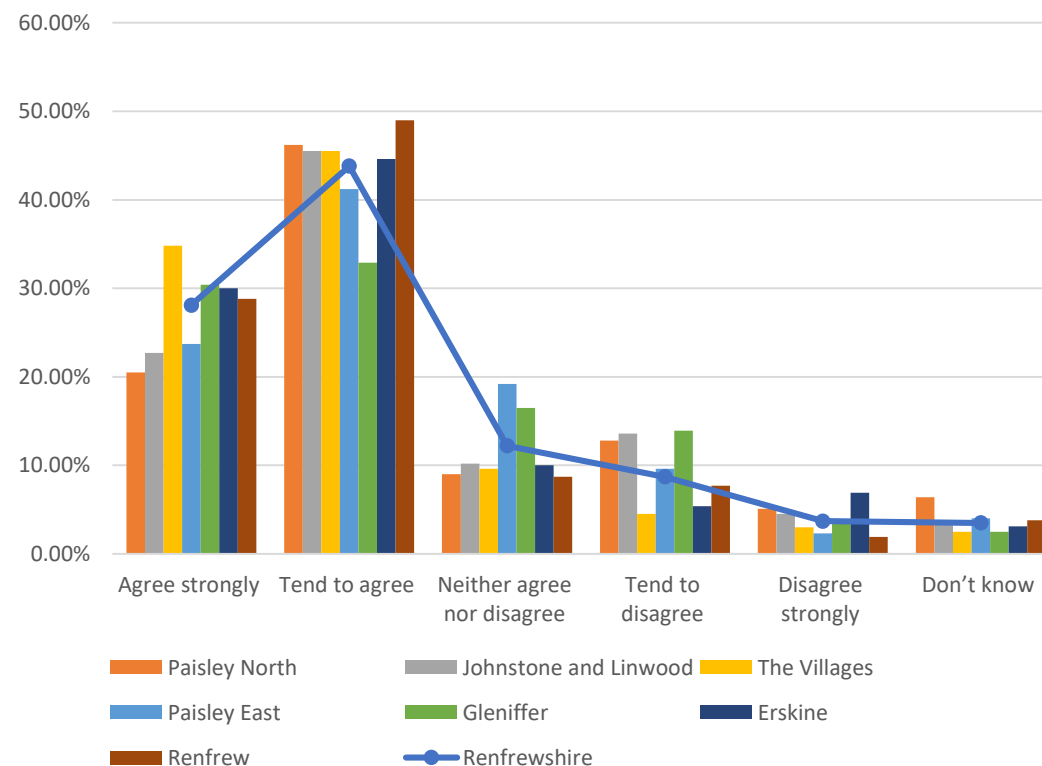


# Public Services Panel responses

This is a neighbourhood where people from different backgrounds get on well together



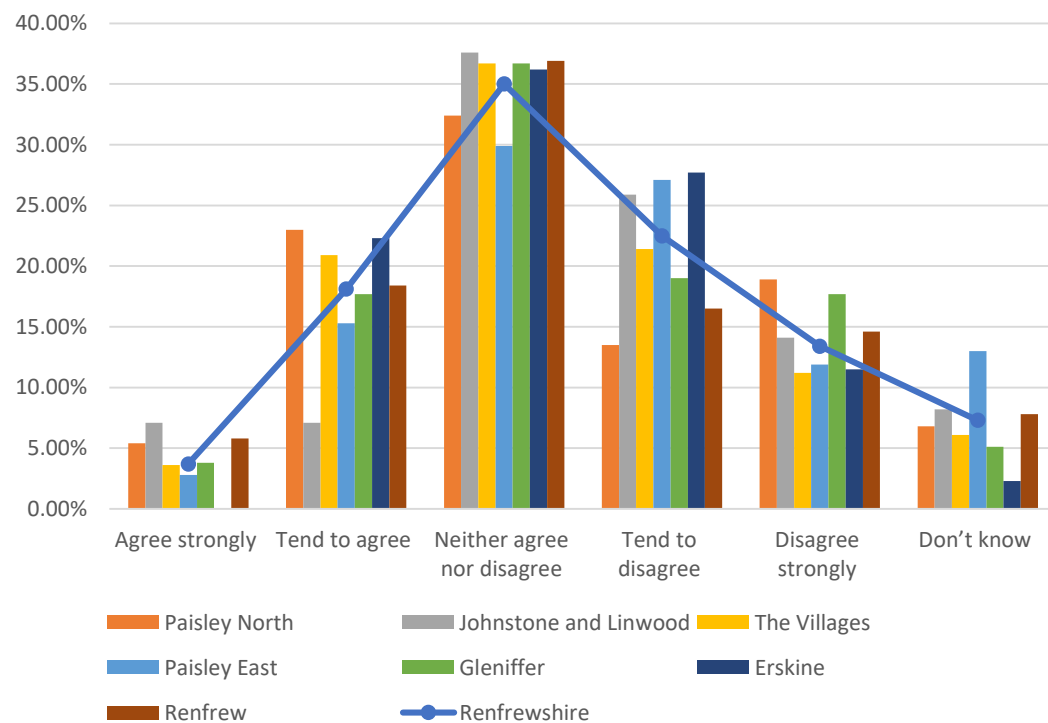
If I was alone and needed help, I could rely on someone in this neighbourhood to help me



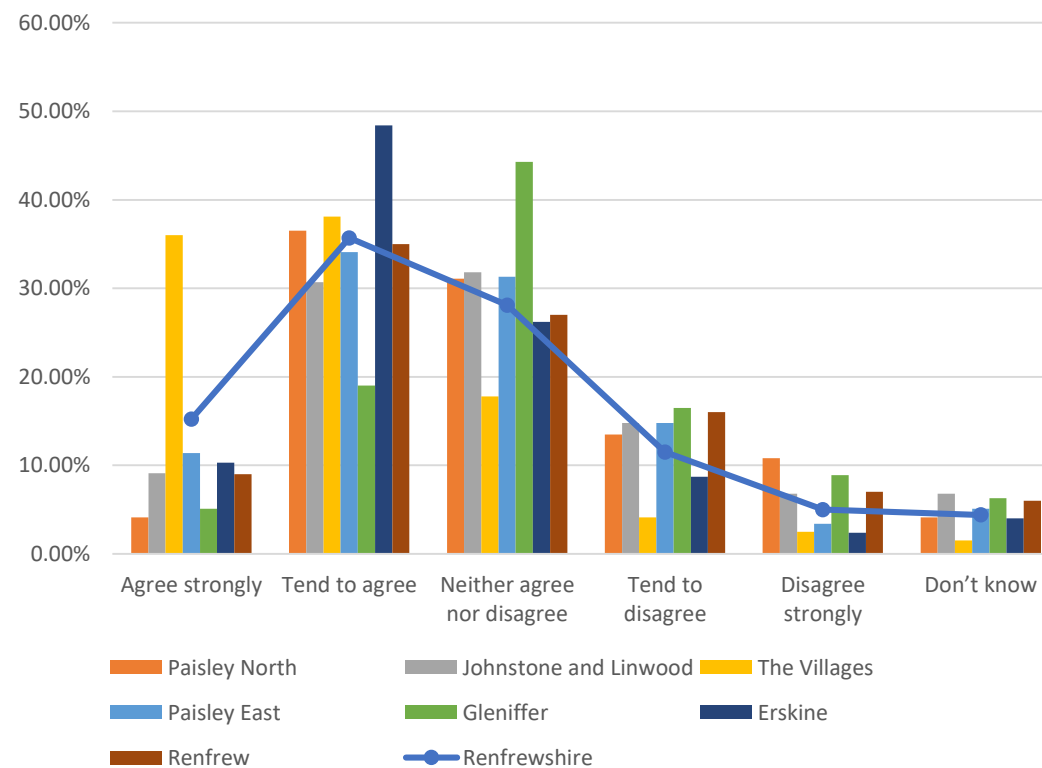


# Public Services Panel responses

To what extent do you agree you can influence decisions about public services and other issues of public interest



This is a neighbourhood where local people take action to help improve the neighbourhood



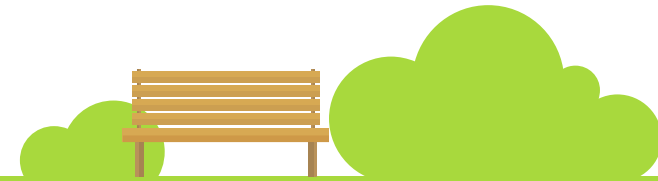
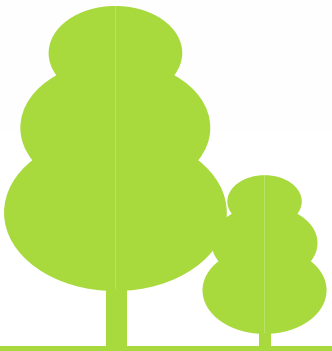


## Listening events

- Programme of Listening Events held over winter 2020/21, facilitated by Engage Renfrewshire
- Targeted engagement is being prioritised going forward, i.e. with Diversity and Equality Alliance Renfrewshire and local women's groups
- Discussions with Local Partnerships also important part of this!

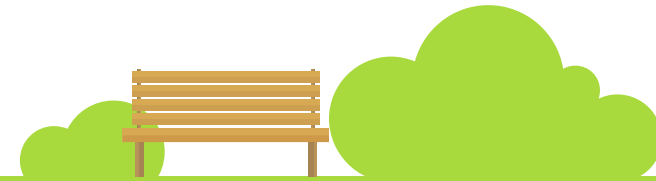
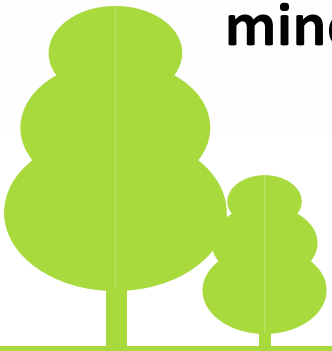
# Listening events - key points to date

- The impact of the pandemic on people with **low incomes or who are in more insecure employment** is increasingly apparent to community groups and support organisations across Renfrewshire
- **Food insecurity and fuel poverty** are seen as being particular issues, with high ongoing demand for community based supports.
- Partners and Neighbourhood Hubs seeing increasing **complexity in needs** and demand – people with COVID / multiple needs / not always in contact with services or have any other support networks.



# Listening events - key points to date

- **Digital exclusion** is a key issue – engagement indicates online provision had worked well in some instances, but that significant issues remained in terms of access and engagement through online means.
- There are particular concerns with the ongoing nature of restrictions and the health and wellbeing of local people, particularly in relation to **loneliness and isolation** and the impact that this can have on **mental health and wellbeing**. Young people were a particular area of concern.
- Engagement indicates that some specific groups are also experiencing potentially greater impact as a result of the pandemic, including those from **black and minority ethnic communities, women, and carers**.



An illustration featuring two stylized characters holding a large white rectangular sign. On the left, an older man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a dark jacket and a red scarf, holds the sign. On the right, a younger man with dark hair, wearing an orange and white striped shirt and blue pants, holds the sign. The background consists of light blue clouds at the top and a green field at the bottom. The sign itself is white with a small red tab at the top right corner.

## Discussion

- What have been the impacts of COVID-19 in your communities?
- Does this influence the Local Priorities previously identified by this Local Partnership?